

Something like five years ago Grover
Cleveland, then President of the United
States, sent Federal troops into the
State of Illinois of his own motion,
against the protest of the Governor of
that State and in defiance of the limitations
of the powers of the President
as therefore recognized and observed.
In time of peace. Now, President McKinley
has ordered an invasion of
China, a nation with which the Secretary
of State explicitly declares we are
at peace, without authority of Congress.
Congress alone has the power to
declare war. To invade China, it matters
not what the pretext, is to declare
war against that nation. Verbal quibbles
and hair-splitting cannot conceal
or obscure that patent fact, any more
than it can obscure the fact that Mr.
McKinley is guilty of the flagrant
usurpation of powers that are explicitly
vested in another branch of the
Government.

If two years ago the question had
been asked, "Can the President of the
United States send troops to China
without authority of Congress?" there
is no intelligent man who would not
have answered in the negative. To-day
it seems to be taken largely as a matter
of course. So much for Imperialism!

The fact that the troops are sent from
the Philippines makes no difference;
they might equally well be sent from
the United States direct. The fact that
other nations are invading China is no
concern of ours; they can create no precedent
for the United States; they can confer
on William McKinley no power
forbidden him by the Constitution.
The fact that American citizens
have been attacked by mobs
gives the President no power to
declare war against China. Italians
have been massacred by mobs at New
Orleans and citizens of Russia and Austria-Hungary
were shot down in cold
blood by deputy sheriffs at Hazelton.
In neither case was any punishment
inflicted on the guilty, nor was there
invasion or threat of invasion of the
United States. If American lives are
in danger in China, and if war must be
declared to protect them, the President's
duty is plain. Let him assemble
Congress and lay the situation before
it. It could be depended on to do, and
do at once, whatever the circumstances
require. It is idle to say that there
was not time. The situation was clearly
developed two weeks ago; more time
has been lost in dallying than would
have been necessary to proceed in accordance
with the Constitution.

The most dangerous phase of the
matter is not that Mr. McKinley should
assume to play the autocrat; he has
had a taste of power and is a Republican;
or even unthinking approval, of those
who should know better. It is the history
of all governments that they are
prone to exercise all the powers that
they can exercise with safety. If Mr.
McKinley is permitted to play the
autocrat he will play it, and set precedents
for his successors. Fifty years
ago the President of the United States
who had presumed to order an invasion
of a friendly or foreign country without
authority of Congress, would have
been denounced from one end of the
country to the other. To-day the Imperialistic
and Tory newspapers in this
country applaud such usurpation!

It is sometimes well to hark back
for the sake of comparison. In a few years
we have changed from a nation with a
standing army of twenty odd thousand
men, to one with an army of an hundred
thousand, and still there is clamor,
by certain classes, for an increase; by
the high-handed acts of our presidents,
It has come to pass that this army may

be used to overawe State authorities at
home, or to invade the soil of friendly
nations abroad, without authority and
in contravention of law; instead of
holding that governments derive their
just powers from the consent of the
governed, we are waging a bloody war
to force our authority on an alien people,
whom (after they have been subjugated),
it is proposed to govern without
the Constitutional guarantees we
demand for ourselves, leaving them
naked to the tyranny of irresponsible
governors and the greed of insatiable
spoilsmen. A nation at peace with the
world, following the even tenor of its
way, we have been projected into quarrels
with which we have no concern,
and made partisans in the immemorial
quarrels of Europe and of Asia; and
the man who is at the head of the nation,
at this crisis, is the plaything of the
men who are hungry for army contracts,
or who supply armor plate, at their
own figures, for battleships; who
grind their workmen into striking and
demand Federal troops to shoot them,
and who see in our "colonies" only enlarged
opportunities for the exploitation
of a commercial creed that poisons
the soldier with rotten beef and
robs the civilian to pay dividends on
watered stock.

And yet, we are told, there is no Imperialism,
no Militarism, no departure
from the tenets upon which the fabric
of our free institutions rests!

THE REPUBLICAN NOMINEES.
The Republicans have done the best
they could in the way of a vice-presidential
ticket. Let that much be conceded.
It was not their intention exactly;
that is to say, it was not the
intention of the Administration crowd
that Roosevelt should be named.
Nevertheless it was good politics. McKinley
appeals powerfully to the man
with an axe to grind; Roosevelt, as the
picturesque swashbuckler, appeals to
the man who dearly loves the spectacular,
and a chance to holler. His
nomination makes it more than ever
certain that Imperialism will be the
overshadowing issue in the campaign.
There will be no muzzling Teddy, and
no obscuration of him. He will be the
exponent of aggression, as McKinley
is of the trusts. If he had not been,
he would never have been named; he
is to be paraded as the type of the
virile and confident young American
going forth on the heels of a compelling
destiny to conquer and amaze.
Whether he will either conquer or
amaze in this campaign, will appear
later.

Roosevelt is stronger than Long or
Bliss, or any recognized henchman of
Hanna would have been; it is easy to
overestimate his strength for all that.
There is no reason apparent, why
panic need seize upon Democrats. In
1898, fresh from Cuba, and with the
prestige and somewhat melodramatic
charge in the skirmish of San Juan,
unabated by political enemies, Roosevelt
carried the State of New York by
17,786 votes, and was elected Governor.
McKinley carried it in 1896 by
288,469 plurality. The Rough Rider
racket was worked for all it was worth
in 1898. Roosevelt, accompanied by
some of his troops, was whisked over
the State on the tail of a Pullman
car, and the eagle screamed. Nevertheless
17,786 was the best Teddy could
do. Since then he has made enemies
and plenty of them; if he would not
swallow him as a candidate for Governor
they will scarcely relish him as
the nominee for vice-president.

The ticket is weak in one respect—
it is incongruous. McKinley is smooth,
pliant, oleaginous; Roosevelt is hot-headed,
impetuous, impatient of restraint, overbearing,
and venomous in his utterances.
The Democrats will welcome
Roosevelt and the issue that he is sure
to accentuate. Roosevelt is not a great
man, or he would never have been
whipped into taking a nomination he
did not want. A small man in front
of a great issue is not a very terrible
spectacle. Teddy will be dwarfed,
painfully dwarfed, in the short space
of the next few months. The hero
business has pretty well petered out;
the Honorable Thomas C. Platt is not
a good cleaver for a hero who is
about to make his debut in national
politics. It will be comparatively easy
to take care of Teddy and his Rough
Riding, and his round robins. He has
a considerably more trying ordeal before
him than he underwent at San Juan
and at Philadelphia.

The most significant thing about
Roosevelt's nomination is that it was
a confession of weakness. His robust
personality is expected to average up
the ticket, and in popular estimation
it is hoped that his equipment of spinal
column will make up for McKinley's
deficiency. It is a barren hope.

A CORRECTION.
The Virginian-Pilot is indebted to
Capt. Wm. E. Taylor for directing its
attention to an error in the sketch of
the Norfolk Light Infantry Blues that
appeared in its Twentieth Century Edition.
It is therein stated that Capt.
Taylor succeeded Capt. Jacob Vickery,
who was compelled to retire by reason
of ill health at the beginning of the
Civil War, as the Captain of the Blues.
Capt. Vickery was, in fact, succeeded
by Capt. Charles R. Grandy; Capt. Taylor
was chosen to the command after
the war. The sketch was written from
data furnished by a gentleman acquainted
with all the facts, and was the error
of a pure inadvertence.

If the report be true that Li Hung
Chang has been recalled to take charge
of the negotiations with the Powers at
Peking, it is the most hopeful phase of
the Chinese situation. He is the one
Chinaman who can see with the eyes
of the West, and who therefore appreciates
the full measure of the danger
that threatens China.

There are very few men in the world
who, in an ordinary transaction, would
deliberately rob. And this is true, not
only on account of the protection to
be given to one's reputation for veracity,
probity and honesty, but from an
earnest desire to do what is right.
And this is just the point at which
the greatest divergence in human nature
takes place. In opinion, judgment
and feeling. One man with perfect
conscientiousness, but with an enlarged
and well developed degree of selfishness,
will be unable to eliminate self
in his dealings, and for that reason,
being blinded, will actually worst his
neighbor and take more than that to
which he is entitled.

Nor is this applicable to persons
thought to be guilty of "sharp dealing,"
but to much more admired and esteemed
citizens.
So it is, that there are few really disinterested
friends in the world. One
hardly looks in this "cash day" for one
to step aside or actually worst himself
in a transaction in which both are
interested, but honesty alone, would
seemingly be a basis for the belief that
a friend would help another's enterprise
and effort, overlooking for the time
opportunities that naturally presented
for self aggrandizement.

This principle is so potent as to be
generally accepted in the case of employees,
and is a matter of law in
dealings of trustees and agents. It follows
that an employee, who bettered
his condition at the sacrifice of his employer
(whose interests he should be
watching over and preserving), would
immediately be discharged.

The whole thought and idea and situation
is founded upon a high moral plane;
a keen sense of honor; a respect
of another's rights; a proper
valuation of one's own desires; a suppression
of morbid selfishness, that
leads to misappropriation and secret
aggression, and an honest, high-toned
desire, inherent in the breast of the
honest man to do what is right, and
whatever might be expected of him
under the circumstances.

This may be a high plane. The world
will call it too general, or will accept
it as a truth in the abstract; but as an
unprofitable rule by which to be governed
in business.

And yet (be it said to their advantage)
there are men who can be so
fully trusted that one's interest is better
off in their hands. The greatest
sacrifices of personal interest would be
made before (by word or deed), the
property, interests or rights of another,
entrusted to him, should suffer. Nor
are such men hard to find, though it
sometimes takes abnormal conditions
to develop them.

WHEN GRIEF IS OPPORTUNE.
Democrats belong on the cheerful
and hopeful side. They must stand
on against Republican sharpers and
bring the methods of the party down
to merely a whine and a kick. They must
not permit any false teacher to drum
into them the idea that general prosperity
is an obstacle which will prevent
them to take from the Populists or
even from the Republicans any line of
sound Democratic doctrine which these
opponents may declare to the world;
but in making such selections of good
things, wherever found, great care and
the best judgment must be exercised.—
Galveston Daily News.

In all of which there is much good
sense. There is an element in every
community which makes it a point to
attend all funerals. These persons
dearly love to mourn. The Democratic
party has just a little more than its
share of them without placing outside
contracts.

There is no doubt that the degree of
prosperity the country is enjoying
is very far from being equally distributed,
and is overestimated; just as the
depression was painted in blacker colors
than befitted it.

Democrats were not the only calamity
howlers in 1896; they were out-hoaxed
two to one by the Republicans.
Each proposed a different remedy
and each advanced a different theory
as to hard times. The Republicans
won and say they have made times
better by restoring "confidence." The
Democrats said we can have no permanent
prosperity until we restore bimetalism.
We can afford to wait and allow
time to vindicate or condemn that
contention. If it be condemned, the
contention can be dropped. If it be
vindicated, or if the pinch and stress of
depression and panic come again, the
Democratic position will be stronger
than ever. Time alone will settle this
controversy; words will not, and it is
useless to waste them.

As the News says, prosperity is no
obstacle to Democratic success. The
Republicans will succeed in making
some over-credulous persons believe
that Mr. McKinley brought better
times; a vastly larger number will not
fail to note that he brought, instead,
jobbery and deals, scandal and rank
favoritism, abject surrender of the
government to the trusts and a criminal
disregard of sacred obligations. Luck
has done something for the Republicans;
they have contrived to do a
good deal more against themselves. If
the Democrats cannot lick them out of
their boots on their record of rank
iniquity and ashine blunders, at home
and in the "colonies," they certainly
will not be able to achieve that result
by borrowing evanescences of grief, or
prophecies of disaster, from Sioux Falls
or the sage brush.

The Republican good roads declaration
will not be lost on the stump in
rural parts, and before the first of
November next the farmers will be
informed that if Mr. McKinley is elected
free turnpikes will soon penetrate
every part of the country, and he will
even be supplied with a nicely calculated

showing of how much such roads,
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and these private engagements should
in no wise interrupt the performances
of the public. Know all your duty
and do it."

That's where the Yankees have
always beaten us. They never let politics
interfere with business, and yet
they manage to vote once or twice at
every election.

NOTES AND OPINIONS.
WARS NOW AND IN THE PAST.
(Chattanooga Times.)
The end of the nineteenth century
lacks some of being a peaceful one. We
have wars and rumors of wars. The
good number are on the South American
republics. Mexico has a bloody
job with her great tribe of Yaqui
Indians. There is a real, genuine
war in South Africa, now happily

ended showing of how much such roads,
built and maintained at government
expense, will save him annually. The
platform committee went gunning for
buncombe and brought it down.

The normal strength of the Chinese
army is 300,000 men, of which not more
than a third are really maintained on
a war footing. With the exception of
a few corps the troops are armed with
obsolete weapons and are ignorant of
drill in the modern acceptance. In
conflict with well equipped troops they
would fare little better than the
Igorrote bowmen of the Philippines in
their clashes with American soldiers.

The esteemed Washington Post says
the Republican platform "embodies the
American policy" with regard to expansion.
A careful reading of that document
discloses the fact that the
"American policy" is the same pursued
by Russia toward Finland and infinitely
worse than that of George the Third
toward the American colonies.

It is thought that the trip of the
Boer envoys to Philadelphia will enable
them to know how London would
receive them without taking the risk
of going there!

THE STATE PRESS.
Speaking of the abuse of the plea of
insanity in our courts of law, the
Blackstone Courier says:
"What we wish to see is that when
an acquittal is had under the insanity
plea, the accused must be confined in
an asylum for the same length of time
they would have been confined in jail
or the penitentiary for the offense had
not the plea of insanity been made. In
case it would have been the death penalty,
let the confinement be for life. If
under temporary insanity they commit
some crime they may under the same
influence, at some other time, commit
a like offence, and are therefore
a menace to society at all times
and are fit subjects for perpetual
restraint."

As usual the customary gang of
kids were at the commencement exercises
of the Hampton Academy last
Friday evening and made things disagreeable
to the audience. It is a pity
that this rough element can't be kept
out of these places on such occasions.—
Hampton Bulletin.

Any town with a policeman should
not permit itself to be so imposed upon.

First the President landed marines
in China; now he is sending soldiers;
pretty soon he will wonder whether it
wouldn't be just as well to take a
slice of Chinese territory as indemnity
for something of the kind. Imperialism
and lust of territory grow by what
they feed on.—Culpeper Enterprise.

The slice of territory will be taken
to a certainty, if there is an excuse
that will "go down" with the American
people. That is why the troops
are being sent. "Who will pull down
the flag?" Mr. Wolcott has said, with
Mr. McKinley's approval, that "our
possessions" are to girdle the world.

The Salem Times-Register thinks
that "Bryan and Daniel" would be a
winning ticket:
"Bryan and Daniel would make an
ideal ticket, and the combined
personal strength of the two would
prove a winner before the people."

The Bedford Bulletin explodes another
historic myth:
"In a description of Natural Bridge,
which we have recently seen published
in a number of Virginia newspapers, is
this statement